

The Philatelic Communicator

Journal of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30



- R. B. K. L. A. N. -

-30-

www.wu30.org

Third Quarter 2019 Issue 205

U.S to Crash Out of the UPU (Without a Plan?) Supply Chain Dive

Editor's Note: Does this sound familiar? News reports suggest that without USPS membership in the UPU, absentee ballots mailed from outside the U.S. will require \$60 in postage.

On Sept. 24, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) conducted perhaps its most consequential meeting in more than 100 years. The UPU, a global organization, backed by a treaty that sets shipping rates from country to country, has a Congress that meets every four years. But an extraordinary Congress meeting of the full 192-country membership only meets when two-thirds of the members agree to do so.

The intention of the U.S. to withdraw from the UPU is the occasion for the third such meeting ever to be called. The Trump administration announced its intention to withdraw from the UPU in October 2018, pending negotiations with the other members to form new bilateral and multilateral agreements.

The controversy around the UPU treaty, as it stands, swirls around the contention that the treaty makes it very easy and relatively cheap to ship any item under 4.4 pounds into the U.S. from developing countries, so much so that U.S.-based shippers sometimes can't compete.

"This outdated arrangement contributes significantly to the flood of counterfeit goods and dangerous drugs that enter the country from China," said National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Presi-

dent and CEO Jay Timmons in a statement supporting the move back in October.

Now, Supply Chain Dive has learned the United States Postal Service (USPS) sent notices to organizations with negotiated service agreements (NSA) with USPS, warning the international rates in their contracts may be null after Sept. 30 this year.

"We are making every effort to try to minimize any disruption that may be occasioned by this change and are working to devise solutions that promote continuity of operations, as well as alternative solutions for the future," reads an email from a USPS official to an NSA holder dated Aug. 22, 2019 obtained by Supply Chain Dive.

The email goes on to say the USPS is "giving notice of termination of the Agreement," referring to the receiving organization's service agreement, out of an "abundance of caution."

"Please note that your entity will no longer be eligible for discounted rates under the Agreement beginning on October 1, 2019, unless the Postal Service provides further notice regarding this matter to you" the email concludes.

Industry sources confirmed several other organizations with USPS service agreements received similar mes-

sages.

A USPS spokesperson did not confirm the notices to Supply Chain Dive when asked to do so, but did



U.S. Universal Postal Union
1949 Set C41, C42, C43



The Philatelic Communicator

ISSN 0147-36456

Vol 53 No.3 Whole No. 205 2019

www.wu30.org

David E. Crotty, Editor

P.O. Box 16115
Ludlow, KY 41016-0115
decrotty@yahoo.com
859-360-0676

Thomas P. Johnston, Associate Editor

124 Bishopstone Circle
Frederick, MD 21702-5123
tjohnstn@gmail.com

Writers Unit #30 publishes *The Philatelic Communicator* four times a year. A subscription to *TPC* is included with dues paid by members of the Unit. *TPC* is distributed by email as a PDF. ©2019 Writers Unit #30. Title page drawings by Peter Boylan.

Manuscripts are solicited on subjects of interest to writers, editors, and publishers of all forms of philatelic literature. All submissions for publication, without exception, are subject to being edited. Electronic submissions are preferred. Opinions expressed in *The Philatelic Communicator* are those of the authors, and not necessarily of the Writers Unit #30, its officers, editor, publisher, or agents. Letters and emails received by the editor may be printed unless labeled "Not for Publication." Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy, but validity is not guaranteed. Some product names and images may be trademarks or registered trademarks, and are used only for identification and explanation, without intent to infringe. All editorial matters must be handled by the editor.

APS Writers Unit #30

Deadlines for receipt of copy by the editor:

First Quarter: February 1 Second Quarter: June 1
Third Quarter: September 1 Fourth Quarter: December 1

Lloyd de Vries, President

P.O. Box 1249, Washington Township, NJ 07676-1249
stamps@pobox.com

David E. Crotty, Vice President

P.O. Box 16115 Ludlow, KY 41016-0115
decrotty@yahoo.com 859-462-6995

Alan Barasch, Secretary Treasurer

P O Box 411571
Saint Louis, MO 63141-3571
wu30@mophil.org

The **Executive Committee** includes the officers, Editor, and Immediate Past President

Gene Fricks..... genefricks@comcast.net

The **WU#30 Council** includes

Ernest E. Fricks..... genefricks@comcast.net (2017)

David A. Kent..... kentdave@aol.com (2017)

Leonard Robert McMaster..... uspps.possessions@gmail.com (2017)

Dane S. Claussen..... danes.claussen@gmail.com (2015)

Daniel C. Warren, M.D..... dwwarrenmd@cox.net (2015)

Ken Trettin, Assistant to Treasuer..... hogman@myomnitel.com

Writers Unit #30 Committee Chairs are:

APS Rep: David Crotty

Awards: Robert P. Odenweller

Critique Service: Dane S. Claussen

Hall of Fame: David E. Kent

Historian: Steven J. Rod

Nominating: Alan Warren

Publications: Peter Martin

Publicity: Ernest E. (Gene) Fricks

Recruiting: Lloyd de Vries

Special Events: Kenneth Trettin

USPS Representative: Peter Martin

Webmaster: Todd Ronnei

tronnei@gmail.com

WU #30 Breakfast: Lloyd de Vries



David Crotty From the Editor

Wolfgang Maassen and John Hotchner

The points made by Wolfgang Maassen and John Hotcher are well taken. How can a work of literature that is more than a page long be evaluated in an average of a few minutes in the very large international shows, as Wolfgang describes?

The fact is that today virtually every published book, catalog or article is prepared in electronic form by the author, who then sends it to his publisher or printer in electronic form. Why must the work be sent to the literature exhibit chairman as a book? Then the books are sent around expensively by post. Transporting the entries electronically could give the judges several months to do their work. The downside of this is that our judges would quickly realize that they are massively underpaid for their work.

The Sarasota Literature Exhibit of Philatelic Articles, advertised on pages 10 and 11 in this issue of *TPC* is the first literature exhibit that gets it right. Each article is transferred electronically at all stages.

Wolfgang's complaints are quite valid.

Articles Needed

A few issues ago John Hotcher wrote about the Editor's story and nightmare. The time for the Journal issue is upon us and the file folder (now in Windows Explorer) is empty. I had that experience this time for the 3Q of *TPC*.

I did find a few topics to fill in. We are ready to hear your story. Lloyd's idea is Great! Giving us a paragraph describing how our philatelic work has changed with the arrival of the Digital World. Give us your story.

Literature Exhibit Gold and TPC

TPC was awarded Gold this year at StampShow. That is entirely because some of you provided excellent articles.

Grammarly the Correction Engine

I have been trying to use Grammarly to correct my text. It is a chore to use. It hates long sentences and passive tense. So what's wrong with Passive? Sometimes that is just the right thing to say. We will go into that in the future.

Dave



Lloyd de Vries *President's Message*

It was great seeing many of you at the WU30 breakfast at APS StampShow/ATA National Topical Stamp Show this summer, and I'm sorry I didn't see more of you there. I'm also sorry I didn't get to chat more and with more people, but there just didn't seem to be enough time. Suddenly, it was Sunday!

After each stamp trip, my wife always asks, "Did you get everything done you wanted to get done?" The answer is usually "no." I consider that a good thing because I hate to take a trip for any purpose, do everything I wanted to do, and then sit around with time on my hands.

A few news items for Writers Unit members:

We used to give away books and publications by members with a free raffle: You'd get one of those numbered carnival tickets as you entered, then numbers were called out, and each person, in turn, could go to the table and select an item to take home. Of course, if your number was one of the last to be announced, you probably had a choice of *Danish Revenue Stamps 1863-1879, Latvian Language Edition* and *The Greatest Dragon Cards First Day Covers of All Time*.

Worse, our breakfast is held Sunday morning, and most of us are already packed for our flights home. Those books would put us over the very-chintzy airline weight limits. (All except the Dragon Cards book, whose one page doesn't add much weight.) At least, that was how I felt, and I let the book giveaway fall off the agenda.

One of our members — who drives to shows, no matter how far from home — recently said he missed the giveaways. At our breakfast, I asked for a show of hands about reinstating it. My condolences to our road warrior: It lost, overwhelmingly, so it won't be reinstated in the near future.

Also, we are overdue for an election for officers and members of the Writers Unit #30 council. If details aren't in this issue, they will be in the next one. The council meets physically once a year, right after the breakfast, and discusses and decides issues via e-mail. If you are interested in running for a seat (technically, to be a "Councilor"), please let us know.

Now, a request: Please write one paragraph on how the Internet has changed what you do in philatelic writing, editing, and publishing, and send it to me at stamps@pobox.com. Include a separate line with your name, the name of your publication, and, if not readily apparent from the medium's name, what sort of publication it is — research book, website, column and so on. I don't think there's a single one of us whose philatelic work hasn't changed, whether it's accessing an online thesaurus to submitting manuscripts to subscribing to the latest versions of software.

Nearly every television and radio news writer knows this: It's harder to write short than to write long, so keeping your submissions brief is part of this challenge.

One paragraph.

We'll publish some of these monographs in upcoming issues of TPC, space permitting. (That is, for you editors out there, when Dave needs space fillers.)

A few other quick items:

WU30 is co-sponsoring an articles-only literature competition at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in February. See the news release on pages 10 and 11 in this issue.

The American First Day Cover Society sponsors an annual award for the best publication (article or volume) on FDCs, the Philip H. Ward Award. All articles in the society journal *First Days* are considered automatically, but works in other media may be entered. There is no fee, but you must submit three copies of the work. The competition chair is Mark Goodson, bgdsn@comcast.net. He should be calling for submissions at the beginning of the year.

The Virtual Stamp Club, a website and discussion site that I run, is always looking for philatelic articles. Previously published material is fine, and it can be simple or esoteric. Sorry, I can't pay. If you have something that ran a few years ago, and you'd like to show it to a fresh audience, let's talk. stamps@pobox.com ♦

provide the following statement as to the demands on the table at the upcoming UPU Congress meeting:

“The Postal Service is working closely with the State Department, the Postal Regulatory Commission, and other stakeholders to implement self-declared rates. While the United States is preparing to leave the UPU in October, if a solution can be found that eliminates the economic distortion caused by the current terminal dues system on U.S. businesses, then the United States will continue its participation in the UPU,” the spokesperson wrote in an email.

What’s at risk this peak season?

Glenn Gooding, president of iDrive Logistics, which has an NSA with USPS, told Supply Chain Dive he expected changes to come with the UPU withdrawal, but the canceling out of existing negotiated rates is a surprise. NSAs are generally negotiated yearly and often in January after the holiday shopping season has ended. These abrupt changes could hit shippers right at the start of peak season for e-commerce.

The situation surrounding the UPU contains echoes of the trade war. Gooding said the UPU rates certainly need reform. They were conceived before China industrialized and became the manufacturing powerhouse it is today. But the hard-line, all-or-nothing approach is likely to leave U.S. businesses in an uncertain environment at a key time, even though they may agree with the intended outcome.

A presentation by Giselle Valera, executive director of continuity of global operation at USPS, dated June 19, 2019, reveals the level of uncertainty around the issue of U.S. postal treaties going forward. Essentially the slides convey that the USPS will continue normal function unless it doesn’t.

“USPS intends to keep our major international products and services for export,” but “geographic coverage” may change. “Rates changes are likely to follow the current, normal, annual cycle schedule unless costs increase significantly” the slides read.

A USPS spokesperson told Supply Chain Dive, “Because the U.S. may no longer be a member of the UPU by mid-October 2019, the Postal Service is undertaking parallel efforts to ensure the continued exchange of international mail items even if the negotiations to remain in the UPU are unsuccessful. No matter the outcome with the UPU, the Postal Service is committed to remaining in the international mailing business.”

But shippers and postage sellers are concerned. eBay has even created a digital form letter for its sellers to send to their Congress-people to advocate for staying in the UPU.

“If the US withdraws, small businesses that sell online to customers around the world could see service disruptions and dramatically increased costs for shipping through the US Postal Service - all heading into the holiday season. Congress needs to hear from you about how small businesses would be hurt if the US goes through with this plan. We encourage you to take advantage of these easy-to-use tools to contact your representatives and stop the US from withdrawing from the UPU” reads eBay’s call to action.

If the U.S. withdraws from the UPU in October, U.S. shippers will lose their default contracts with the postal agencies of the world. Global e-commerce will by no means stop, but shippers will be on their own, to an extent, when it comes to finding the best price for international service in the marketplace until the U.S. can negotiate bilateral and multilateral deals.

Such deals with European allies, said Matthew White, a strategist at iDrive Logistics, would likely be relatively easy to come to, but negotiating with China would not happen in a vacuum.

“China is not going to view this as the U.S. asking for a fair playing field in terms of international shipping. They’re going to look at this as a direct assault on them in terms of trade, and to some extent it is,” White told Supply Chain Dive.

Getting ahead of the change

Some organizations are already preparing for such an eventuality. Stamps.com, a major reseller of postage to small e-commerce sellers, has developed a new service it is ready to offer the moment the U.S. withdraws from the UPU, if it comes to that.

“In anticipation of the possibility that the United States leaves the Universal Postal Union (UPU), Stamps.com has introduced two new shipping services under the GlobalPost brand name that are not reliant on U.S. relationships with the UPU,” Vice President of Online Marketing for Stamps.com Eric Nash told Supply Chain Dive via email. The service will offer “similar transit times, customs clearance process and competitive rates,” said Nash. On the company’s second-quarter earnings call earlier this month, Stamps.com CEO Ken McBride described this effort as diversifying “from a domestic single carrier business model to our global multi-carrier business model.”

Gooding and iDrive Logistics are offering solutions through other carriers like DHL and FedEx to ensure continuity of service, though Gooding conceded these options would inevitably be more expensive, possibly double or even triple pre-withdrawal rates.

All shippers, said Gooding, need to seek out USPS alternatives immediately and take another look at their consumer-facing shipping policies, in order to be ready for peak season.

Provided by Otto Bergman ♦

Stamps.com's Global Post

Press Release

In response to the growing concern over the United States leaving the Universal Postal Union (UPU), Stamps.com® has unveiled new GlobalPost international shipping services. These services are not reliant on U.S. relationships with the UPU and will ensure that businesses can continue to ship internationally without disruption, while still receiving similar transit times, customs clearances and competitive rates.

The GlobalPost delivery network leverages partnerships with international postal operators as well as commercial carriers to offer worldwide delivery. GlobalPost services reach over 200 countries and territories and include features not found in traditional international postal services, including:

- Global Address Verification: Improve deliverability with real-time address verification
- No Customs Forms: Send Customs electronically – no forms to print
- Ship Merchandise in Flats: Save money with international flats/large envelopes
- Instant Refunds: No more tracking refund requests that can take up to 2 weeks



- Free Pick-Up Service: Schedule pick-ups when it's convenient for you (select markets only)
- Parcel Coverage: \$100 Included

"We know customers simply can't afford disruptions to their shipping services," said Ken McBride, Chairman, and CEO of Stamps.com. "That's why we're proud to be able to offer these GlobalPost services to our many international shipping customers who have been concerned about the potential USPS disruption caused by the breakdown of the UPU/U.S. relationship. As always, we're trying to keep our customers a few steps ahead, especially when it comes to the ever-changing landscape of e-commerce shipping."

Stamps.com currently offers two variations of the service, GlobalPost Standard International (includes delivery confirmation) and GlobalPost Economy International (only includes tracking into the destination country).

To get more info on GlobalPost international shipping services, visit GoGlobalPost.com or call 1-888-444-1111.

Provided by Otto Bergman. ♦



As many of you who have frequented the new APS and APRL websites have already noticed, one of the newest features on the library's website is the APRL's digital collection: APRL Digital. Over a year in the making, the APRL Digital database was begun as part of the APS Digital Initiatives Plan in October 2017. The software that was chosen at that time for the project was the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) ContentDM platform. OCLC is a global library cooperative that provides shared technology services, original research and community programs for its library members and the library community at large. As such, OCLC's ContentDM is a platform that is both versatile and robust, allowing the APRL and other member libraries to contribute to its development and improvement.

The primary objective for the APRL Digital project was initially to provide online access to our members a complete run of the society's journal, *The American Philatelist*, in digital full-text searchable and downloadable form. Scanning and uploading of the journal was begun in the spring of 2018 by members of the APRL staff and digital interns. In January 2019 digitization of *The American Philatelist* was completed with all 1,435 issues scanned and uploaded starting with the very first issue of January 10, 1887, with eight pages of content, to the most recent issues of 2019, each with over 100 pages of content. Also recently added as of March 2019 is the complete run of the APRL's quarterly house organ, the *Philatelic Literature Review*. Along with the primary jour-

nals of the APS and the APRL, a number of other notable journals were added to the database as societies and clubs contracted the APRL to digitize and upload their journals to the APRL Digital database. Among the journals included in this phase of the project were the *Collectors Club Philatelist* (Collectors Club of New York), *Across the Fence & Across the Fence Post* (Federation of Wisconsin Stamp Clubs), the *Journal of Sports Philately* (Sports Philatelists International), the *Postal History Journal* (Postal History Society), *American Philatelic Congress Books* (American Philatelic Congress), *P.S.* (Postal History Society) and *Espirit Sports et Olympisme* (Collectionneurs Olympiques et Sportifs Français). But the content of the APRL Digital database is not limited to the journals of these distinguished philatelic organizations. The database also includes digitized philatelic exhibits, maps, films and photographs. Many of these categories are sparsely populated at present, but the goal of the APRL Digital project is to further populate these other types of media as items, funds and the time necessary become available for their digitization and uploading to the database.

Suggestions for items to be uploaded to the database are always welcome, keeping in mind copyright and intellectual property ownership restrictions. The APRL has a number of unique archival items that are being considered for inclusion in the database as well.

The PLR article provided instructions to enter the Digital Collections website. ♦

Philatelic Literature at Exhibitions: A Critical Examination

A follow-up

John M. Hotchner



At the risk of piling on, there are a few more things to add to the article in the Fourth Quarter 2018 *TPC* article by Wolfgang Maassen titled “Philatelic Literature at Exhibitions: A Critical Examination”. Maassen concerns himself primarily

with how international literature exhibitions are run; spending six of his seven pages reviewing the FIP rules for holding these exhibitions, and pointing out where they are problematic in concept or in practice. Less than one page is devoted to judging practices, but what he says is damning. It is also accurate. Let me quote a few sentences:

“In his years as a literature juror this author has experienced that a number of his so-called colleagues, often ‘top notch’ in their own fields, like (Traditional Philately or Postal History) were able to describe the look and feel of a book and to grasp its general logic thanks to its table of contents. Otherwise, however, they clearly lacked expertise on such important fields as relevance, level of research and presentation. Their ratings were almost all the time based on “formal” criteria.

“A number of individual international jurors can be specially overwhelmed when they are unfamiliar with the language of an exhibited work, how could these jurors be suited to make a proper evaluation of a literature exhibit written in German or in any other language? It is obvious that the resulting reviews were made rather by looking at the name of the author of the exhibit, instead of having [been] created by means of an attentive and understanding study of the work in question.....”

One other quotation needs to be included here. It is from Maassen’s discussion on why Literature exhibits are not included in eligibility for Grand Prix awards: “It seems certain that none of the [Literature] jurors could explain convincingly why he awarded a certain literature exhibit only 96 points and not 98 points.”

Before I comment on these matters, it needs be said that I have been a Literature exhibitor (though not recently), and a FIP Literature Jury member; most recently at a large Asian show, and at New York 2016. At the Asian show I was also a team leader for a Postal History team and a member of another team evaluating another section of the philatelic exhibition.

In New York, I was also a Team Leader for a large Traditional category. In other words, I have standing to talk about the issues.

At the Asian exhibition there were 167 entries in the Literature class. At NY2016 there were nearly 200. In both instances the Literature jury of four judges (most of whom had other show assignments) met for a total of about 8 hours during the two days before the show opened and philatelic jury work began, to review the entries and assign points/medal levels. None of us had seen the entries prior to the shows unless we happened to own one or more of them when we received the list of entries a month or so before the show.

I will not attack the literature credentials of the folks I judged literature with. I think we were all competent to the task, including having a range of language capabilities, but we were also aware that we were at the starting gate for what would be a pressure-packed five or six day judging process with deadlines built in, and very little time to go into depth with any exhibit – literature or philatelic.

Contrast this with a literature exhibition at a U.S. national show. My last two of these were relatively leisurely affairs. We received the 30+ exhibits in boxes sent by the show committee 30-45 days ahead of the show. We (the three person jury; and in one case we also had an excellent apprentice) had time to actually read (not just thumb through) the entries and discuss the awarding of points and medal levels by email before we ever arrived at the show. There, we had time to talk through the problem entries we had not been able to agree upon by email. I would say each of us spent a minimum of two hours per entry, plus fulfilling the APS requirements to complete a Literature Exhibit Evaluation Form for each entry (a task split roughly evenly among the jurors), hold a literature critique, and not infrequently, correspond with authors after the show to go into additional detail to justify points awarded and answer questions. There are no similar requirements at the international level.

It should be clear that the attention given to any one literature entry at the international level can be only a fraction of what is given to national entries. At 150 entries with eight hours of review, it works out to be a bit over three minutes per entry per judge.

Can a fair evaluation be done in that amount of time? Sometimes a good approximation can be arrived at. Oftentimes

Literature continued on Page 7

that is a wholly insufficient amount of time to consider the merits let alone discover the problem areas of entries. It is overstatement, but not by much, to say that sometimes awards seem to be decided upon with reference to the ability of an entry to serve as a door-stop; the bigger the better, and even better if there are numerous charts, maps, tables, and attractive photography.

It is not overstatement to say that the points awarded cannot possibly be precise, and Maassen is spot on when he says that “none of the jurors could explain convincingly why he awarded a certain literature exhibit only 96 points and not 98 points.”

But lucky for international jurors, they don't have to. Again, unlike APS rules, there is virtually no accountability at the international level. No formal feedback is required. And literature exhibitors generally expect none; though I did get some questions after the New York show from American exhibitors; and in theory it is possible for national Commissioners to track down a Literature judge to ask why exhibit X

received such and such medal. I would say that does not happen often.

It is not my purpose to attack how things are done on the international level. Rather it is my object to explain how what began many years ago as a manageable process has in my view gone off the rails. As noted earlier, the judges are competent, and we try to do a proper job within the constraints imposed. But in my view it is literally impossible to do what really needs to be done as international literature exhibitions are currently structured.

Is there an answer for these problems at the international level? There is, but it will be expensive: Accept fewer entries. Employ more judges who do not have collateral assignments. Give them more time at the show to fairly evaluate the literature exhibits. And make sure that they provide some sort of effective feedback to the exhibitor.

Implementing any one of these suggestions would be good. Implementing more than one in combination with others would be far better.

Note. See the From The Editor on Page 2 of this issue of *TPC*. ♦

Reviews

Print & Electronic

Reviews in *TPC* are indexed at
www.wu30.org Journal page.



Russia in Finland: The Story of Russian Stamps & Postal Stationery Used in Finland, 1899-1918 by Jon Iversen, Morten Nørstad, and Roger Quinby. 206 pages, 7 by 10 inches, card covers, perfect bound, Scandinavian Collectors Club, St. Paul, MN USA. ISBN 13: 978-0-578-47338-3, \$40 plus postage from the Scandinavian Collectors Club, PO Box 16213, St. Paul MN 55116.

This is the story of an intriguing period of Finnish postal history when the stamps of Russian currency were used in Finland. In 1890 Russia assumed jurisdiction over the Finnish Postal Administration with its Postal Manifesto. This document introduced Russian currency as legal tender along with Finland's own national currency.

As a result from January 1, 1891, the Finnish Post was required to sell stamps, including their own penni-denominated ones, to customers paying in Russian currency. This created a complex environment in which mixed frankings of penni and kopek

values are often seen on domestic and foreign mail, except to Russia.

Chapter one provides the historical background leading up to the Russification of the Finnish Post. A time-line is presented for the allowed or mandatory Finnish and Russian kopek franking over the period from 1890 until Finland's independence in 1918. In February 1899 another manifesto appeared that resulted in the new design of “ringless” definitive stamps for use in both Finland and Russia. In 1909 another set of Russian definitives was issued for use in Finland.

Chapter 4 begins with a discussion of covers sent to foreign destinations from 1900 to 1918. Other topics explored in this chapter include postal forms (money orders, COD, parcel cards) and registry labels; Russian postal stationery used in Finland; and a brief discussion of some postmarks and special markings used during this period.

The next two chapters review Russian stamps purchased in Russia that could be used in Finland including the Romanov issues, overprinted Romanov and definitive stamps, the 1917, imperforate stamps, and several semi-postal and charity issues. Chapter 8 is devoted to Russian kopek, Finnish kopek and Finnish penni franking combinations are known from 1891 to 1917.

Chapter 9 explores the changes that took place

Reviews continued on page 8

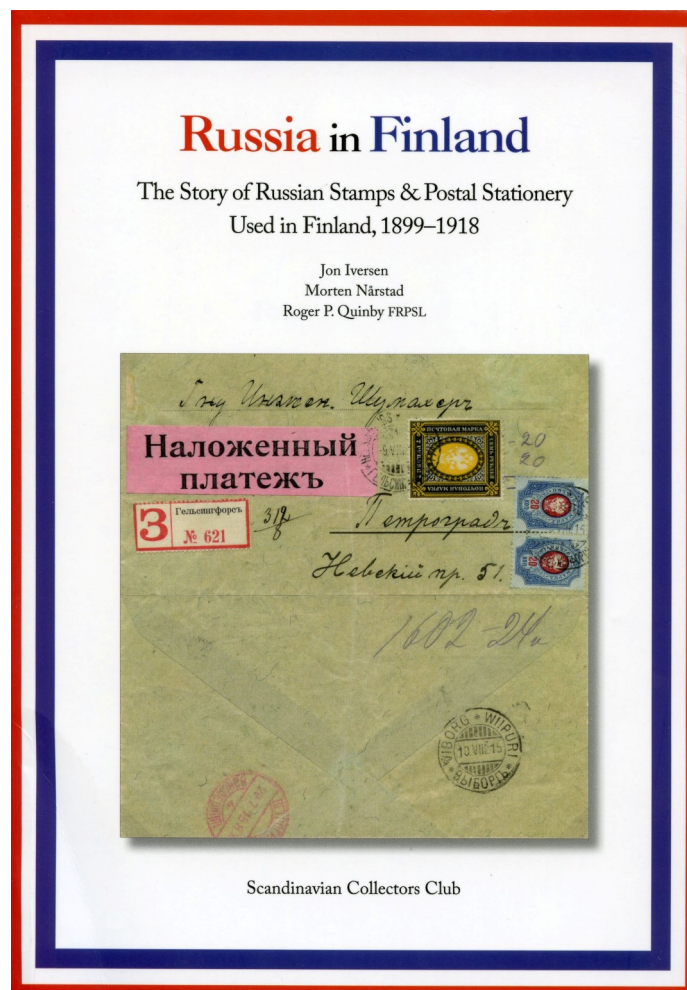
Reviews continued from Page 7

in both Russia and Finland during the turbulent year of 1917. Finland became an independent country December 6, 1917, and was so recognized by Russia. That year Finland issued a new series of Saarinen definitives but they could not be used for mail abroad until Finland joined the Universal Postal Union in February 1918. During the turmoil of 1917 there were constant currency fluctuations and exchange rates. Kopek franking was finally demonetized in March 1918.

A series of appendices will help collectors understand the complexities of this period of Finland's postal history. One appendix lists the kopek rates in Finland from 1891 to 1918 and another reprints various postal bulletins and circulars in English. Several cross indexes tie together the Russian stamps and stationery used in Finland as shown in the Facit, Zagorsky, Norma, and Scott catalogs. There is also an index to the cover illustrations shown throughout the book.

An annotated bibliography provides several pages of references for background reading as well as source material. A subject index concludes the handbook. Collectors who take up the challenge to collect and analyze the use of Russian postal issues in Finland during this 20-year period will need this book in order to understand what they have.

Alan Warren



Photos from the Omaha WU30 Breakfast

Photos from Thomas Loebig







SARASOTA NATIONAL STAMP EXPO with WRITERS UNIT 30

Second Annual Literature Exhibition of Philatelic Articles

February 7-9, 2020

Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
801 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, Florida 34236

WRITERS
UNIT #30



PROSPECTUS

About the Exhibition

This is an exhibition of printed and electronically delivered articles related to the collection and study of postage stamps and stationery, postal history, revenue stamps and stamped paper, cinderella stamps and associated specialized fields. This is the second year of a literature exhibition of this type and will be conducted and judged according to the APS Manual of Literature Judging and Exhibiting, April 2017. The manual is available free online at <https://stamps.org/Portals/0/LitJudgingManual.pdf>.

Accepted Literature

- Entries for this exhibition are confined to articles with philatelic subject matter only that **do not exceed 8,000 words**.
- Articles from philatelic and non-philatelic media are accepted including those appearing in club newsletters, show programs and on line.
- Multi-part articles are permitted as long as total length does not exceed 8,000 words.
- Literature must be primarily in English. Literature in other languages cannot be fairly judged and so must be declined. Bilingual (English and another language) literature is accepted.
- Date of publication must be no earlier than February 1, 2016.
- Authors are limited to two entries.

The Literature Exhibits Committee of the Sarasota National Stamp Expo will decide whether an exhibit is accepted or rejected; no reason need be given for a rejection. Decisions of the Literature Exhibits Committee are final. The Jury may disqualify an exhibit in accordance with the judging manual. All rules apply to all entries.

How to Enter

Entries may be made by individuals, societies, or commercial businesses. This may be authors, editors, publishers, sponsoring organizations, or webmasters. A separate application is required for each title entered. The entry fee is \$30 per competitive entry payable by check in US funds drawn on a US bank, payable to Sarasota National Stamp Expo. Exhibitors outside the U.S. may pay via PayPal (contact the exhibit chairman by email.). The entry fee is waived for non-competitive entries. The exhibitor's signature on the Application constitutes acceptance of the rules stated in this Prospectus.

Entries must be received by December 8, 2019, including the completed and signed application, the entry fee, and a PDF file of the original article. Prospective exhibitors will be notified of acceptance as soon as possible. If an extension is required, please contact the Exhibit Chairman by email.

Applications and check should be mailed to:

Bill DiPaolo
Literature Exhibit Chairman
7110 Marston Court
University Park, FL 34201

What to Send

- Entry form and \$30 fee. (Separate form and fee for each entry)
- Electronic copy (PDF preferred) of the original article on memory stick/card or files may be emailed directly to billdip1@gmail.com
- Authors and/or editors should submit a brief synopsis with the article (as is done with philatelic exhibits), stating the purpose and intent of the entry, to assist the jury in evaluating the entry. This is your opportunity to speak to the jury. Do not send other "supporting documents" such as critique sheets from previous shows as they will not be forwarded to the jury.

ENTRIES SUBMITTED ON MEMORY STICK OR CARD WILL BE RETURNED.

Judging and Awards

A panel of APS accredited judges will act as jury. Evaluations will be made according to the latest APS Manual of Literature Judging and Exhibiting of the APS Committee on the Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges. This may be found on the APS website (<https://stamps.org/Portals/0/LitJudgingManual.pdf>). Because of the specialized nature of this exhibit, a different literature evaluation form will be used. A copy of this form is available on request from the Exhibit Chairman. The decisions of the jury shall be final. The Literature Grand Award, Reserve Grand and an unlimited number of awards in eight levels will be available to the jury. Other awards may be sponsored by philatelic organizations.

Special awards will be announced at the Awards Banquet. The awards and Palmares may be presented to the exhibitor at the show, or will be mailed to the exhibitor after the show. Only one award is provided per entry regardless of the number of authors, editors, etc.

No jury feedback session will be held during the show. A written evaluation will be mailed to the exhibitor after the show.

"Articles Only" Literature Exhibit at Sarasota Show

Inaugurated in 2019, the second annual "Articles Only" Literature exhibit will be held February 7-9, 2020 at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in Sarasota, FL. The event is cosponsored with Writers Unit 30, the society for philatelic authors. The format for this show is different from the literature events currently held at CHICAGOPEX and StampShow. The Sarasota exhibit will be open only to articles of less than 8,000 words. The "articles only" show is intended to recognize the hundreds of authors of philatelic journal articles who each year contribute to the hobby with new information for collectors, exhibitors and researchers. Based on the response to last year's show, the number of entries that can be accepted has been significantly expanded.

This year's show will introduce another first. All submissions will be electronic and posted when accepted on the show's web site. They will be available immediately to all including the judging panel. This year's jury includes John Hotchner as Chief Judge, Nancy Clark and Alan Warren.

According to Liz Hisey, Chairperson of the Sarasota show, "At one point, single frame philatelic exhibits had difficulty gaining the attention they deserved until becoming a separate category in exhibit competitions. The same can be said for shorter articles, many of which provide outstanding research for us, yet are lost among larger philatelic works. We want to set them apart and recognize the authors."

"Hopefully, this focus on shorter pieces will encourage a broader spectrum of our hobby to share their knowledge through publication. You don't have to author a book to substantially add to the philatelic knowledge base. This exhibit puts the spotlight on these important contributors to our hobby," says David Crotty, Writers Unit 30 Vice President and editor of its journal. "Encouraging philatelic authors is an important part of the Writers Unit 30 mission."

Journal editors and authors are encouraged to submit entries for the show no later than December 1, 2019. A complete prospectus and entry form are available on the show's web site – <https://www.sarasotastampclub.com/literature-entry-form>

Editor's Note: This Prospectus and the exhibit application form are also available for download from the home page of our APS Writers Unit 30 website. Look for the Sarasota item.

Literature Palmares

APS StampShow/ ATA National Topical Stamp Show

August 1-4, 2019

Omaha, Nebraska

Literature Grand and Large Gold

Under Three Flags, The Postal History of the Spanish-Cuban/American War (1895-1898)

The Collectors Club of Chicago

Reserve Grand and Large Gold

Rossica, The Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately

Rossica Society

Reserve Grand and Large Gold

NJPH, Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society

Jean R. Walton

Articles

Gold

The Story Behind the 20 cent Flag Sliced to the 17 cent Electric Auto

Tim Lindemuth

Vermeil

Rachel Carson & The Great American Series

Joel I. Cohen

Large Silver

The Jackie Robinson Story in Stamps- A Philatelic Centenary Celebration,

Part I: Ballplayer and Humanitarian

Joel I. Cohen

Commemorating Nickolai I. Vavilov- A Personal Study of Philatelics, History and Science

Joel I. Cohen

Catalogs

Large Gold

*Specialized Catalog Local Stamps (Provisionals) Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia, USSR 1918-1922,
1931*

Joseph Geyfman

Catalog of Private Express Covers, Labels and Stamps

Bruce H. Mosher

Large Vermeil

Concise Catalog on United States Variable Denominations Stamps (1989-2018)

Karim Roder

Columns

Gold

Stamp Collecting Column

Dennis Sadowski

Electronic

Large Gold

United States Postage Meter Stamp Catalog

Rick Stambaugh

International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog

Rick Stambaugh

Gold

www.moldovastamps.org

International Moldovan Philatelic Society

Large Vermeil

www.paleophilatelie.eu

Michael Kogan

Vermeil

Mexico's Revenue Stamps, The Digital Version

Michael D. Roberts

Handbooks

Large Gold

Florida Postal History 1763-1861

Florida Postal History Society

also

Postal History Award

Japanese Canadians in World War II: Censored Mail from the Uprooting in British Columbia

Louis Fiset

also

American Philatelic Society Research Medal

Gold

Postmarked Paris, Texas

Marvin Gorley

Large Vermeil

The Hague Peace Conference of 1899- Postcards of the Conference

Fran Adams

What's First? From Abacus to Zebra: The First Time Topics are Depicted on Postage Stamps

Jack Gray

Vermeil

From Smyrna to Izmir: Everyday Life

Yavuz Corapcioglu

Philatelic Journals & Periodicals

Large Gold

Topical Time

Wayne Youngblood, Editor, Topical Time

The Posthorn

Seija-Ritta Laakso

Gold

Journal of Sports Philately

Mark Maestrone

also

ATA Study unit Journal Award 1st Place

The Philatelic Communicator Volume 52 2018

David E. Crotty

Ice Cap News

Alan Warren

also

ATA Study unit Journal Award 2nd Place

First Days
Albert W. Starkweather

Large Vermeil
Mexicana
Michael D. Roberts

Enophilatelica
The Wine on Stamps Study Unit
also
ATA Study unit Journal Award Honorable Mention

The Meter Stamp Society Quaterly Bulletin
David E. Crotty

LPS Journal: The Journal of the Liberian Philatelic Society
Travis Searls

The Israel Philatelist
Donald A. Chafetz

Haiti Philately
Peter C. Jeannopoulos

Vermeil
The Philatelic Gourmet
The Gastronomy on Stamps Study Unit
also
ATA Study unit Journal Award Honorable Mention

The Czechoslovak Specialist
Keith Hart

Articles

Departments

U.S to Crash Out of the UPU (Without a Plan?).....Supply Chain Dive	1	President's Message.....Lloyd de Vries	3
Stamps.com's Global Post.....Press Release	5	From The Editor.....David Crotty	2
Digital Collections.....APRL	5	Book Reviews	7
Philatelic Literature at Exhibitions: A Critical Examination....A follow-up.....John M. Hotchner	6	<i>Russia in Finland: The Story of Russian Stamps & Postal Stationery Used in Finland</i>Jon Iversen, Morten N�rstad, and Roger Quinby	7
Sarasota Literature Exhibit of Philatelic ArticlesProspectus.....Sarasota Philatelic Club	10	Photos from the Omaha WU30 Breakfast.....Photos from Thomas Loebig	8
Chapter and Website Feedback Service.....	16	<i>Literature Palmares APS StampShow 2029</i>	12
2019 StampShow 2019 Literature Exhibits.....	16		



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary Report 2019 Q3 About Writers Unit #30

The purpose of the Writers Unit #30 of the American Philatelic Society is to encourage and assist philatelic communications, knowledge, and comradeship. Membership is open to anyone interested in philatelic communications.

Membership Dues

Please note that starting year 2018 *TPC* will be distributed by email. Those who have paid for 2018 and beyond by the old rates will be given a credit for the future. The membership dues for each calendar year are:

Web Delivery email full color..... \$15.00

USPS delivery B/W photocopy..... \$20.00

Payment must be made in U.S. funds by a check imprinted with a U.S. bank transit number, or by postal money order payable to "APS Writers Unit #30." Some overseas members prefer to send U.S. bank notes. We will soon have PayPal available but not yet.

Updating Your Mailing Address

Please notify us of USPS and email address changes to assure that you receive without delay each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*.

Alan Barasch, Secretary Treasurer
P O Box 411571
Saint Louis, MO 63141-3571
WU30@MOPHIL.ORG

Materials for Review

Material for review may be sent to the editor. Reviews of materials are welcomed from members and non-members. Reviews should be concise and stress those aspects that are helpful examples (positive or negative) for other authors, editors and publishers. Review requests from those having an interest in the item, such as publishers and distributors, must include a copy of the publication.

Expert Help for Writers and Editors

Dr. Dane S. Claussen, Writers Unit #30 past president, offers free critiques of periodicals, books and manuscripts. Submit the four most recent issues, including postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about 30 days. Inquire before sending books and manuscripts, providing a brief description. Return time will vary depending on length and other commitments. Include an SASE. Send to Dr. Dane S. Claussen's Email: danes.claussen@gmail.com.

Chapter and Website Feedback Service

Beginning in January 2019 critiques of club newsletters or websites will be available to any chapter at no cost. On request an experienced collector will review and provide written feedback on strengths and weaknesses to help your chapter better serve its members. The feedback service will replace the previous Chapter Newsletter and Website competitions. For more details contact Ken Martin, via email or phone.

2019-2020 Literature Exhibits

CHICAGOPEX November 22-24, 2019, Itasca, IL,
www.chicagopex.com.

Sarasota Article Only Literature Exhibit
Feb. 7-9, 2020. www.wu30.org.

APS StampShow August 20-23, 2020, Hartford, CT
www.stamps.org.